

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of sampling fluid from a formation comprising:
 - 2 (a) conveying a tool in a well borehole surrounded by the
3 formation;
 - 4 (b) delivering a first fluid through the tool using a fluid moving
5 device located at a surface location, the first fluid exiting the
6 tool at a distal end and returning to the surface location as a
7 return fluid in an annulus between the tool and a borehole
8 wall, the return fluid including the first fluid and cuttings;
 - 9 (c) directing the first fluid from within the tool toward a portion of
10 the borehole wall to remove material from an area on the
11 wall portion;
 - 12 (d) moving a pad member to the wall portion to seal the wall
13 portion from the annulus; and
 - 14 (e) exposing a first port to the sealed wall portion to sample
15 formation fluid from the formation.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the tool is conveyed into the
2 borehole on a drill string and the first fluid comprises drilling fluid.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein directing the first fluid further
2 comprises controlling pressure of the diverted first fluid to remove
3 from the wall portion at least one of i) some mudcake and ii)
4 cuttings.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein directing the first fluid toward the
2 wall portion further comprises directing the first fluid through the first
3 port.

- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the tool further comprises at least
2 one second port, and wherein directing the first fluid toward the wall
3 portion further comprises directing the first fluid through the second
4 port.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein tool further comprises a first
2 extendable probe, the pad being disposed on the extendable probe
3 and the at least one second port is disposed spaced apart from the
4 extendable probe.
- 1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the tool comprises an extendable
2 member spaced apart from the pad member, the second port being
3 disposed on the extendable member, the method further comprising
4 extending second port prior to directing the first fluid toward the wall
5 portion.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the extendable member is selected
2 from a group consisting of (i) an extendable probe, (ii) an extendable
3 stabilizer blade, (iii) a steering rib, and (iii) a gripper element.
- 1 9. An apparatus for sampling fluid from a formation comprising:
2 (a) a tool disposed in a well borehole surrounded by the
3 formation;
4 (b) a fluid moving device at a surface location coupled to the tool
5 for delivering a first fluid through the tool, the first fluid exiting
6 the tool at a distal end and returning as a return fluid to the
7 surface location in an annulus between the tool and a
8 borehole wall, the return fluid including the first fluid and
9 formation fragments;

- 10 (c) a fluid-diverting device for directing the first fluid from within
11 the tool toward a portion of the borehole wall for diverting the
12 fragments in the return fluid away from the wall portion;
13 (d) a pad member disposed on the tool, the pad member being
14 moveable in relation to the wall portion for sealing said wall
15 portion from the annulus; and
16 (e) a first port exposed to the sealed wall portion for sampling
17 formation fluid.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the tool is conveyed into the
2 borehole on a drill string and the first fluid comprises drilling fluid.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a pressure control
2 device for controlling pressure of the diverted first fluid to remove at
3 least some mudcake from the wall portion.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the fluid-diverting device is
2 coupled to the first port and the first fluid is directed toward the wall
3 portion through the first port.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the tool further comprises at least
2 one second port coupled to the fluid diverting device and the first
3 fluid is directed toward the wall portion through the at least one
4 second port.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein tool further comprises a first
2 extendable probe, the pad being disposed on the extendable probe
3 and the at least one second port is disposed spaced apart from the
4 extendable prob .

- 1 15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the tool further comprises an
2 extendable member spaced apart from the pad member, the at least
3 one second port being disposed on the extendable member.
- 1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the extendable member is
2 selected from a group consisting of (i) an extendable probe, (ii) an
3 extendable stabilizer blade, and (iii) a steering rib.
- 1 17. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the tool further comprises at least
2 one second port coupled to the fluid diverting device, the first port
3 and at least one second port being disposed on the pad member
4 and the first fluid is directed toward the wall portion through the at
5 least one second port.
- 1 18. A formation testing while drilling system comprising:
2 (a) a drilling rig for drilling a well borehole into the earth, the rig
3 including a mud circulation system for flowing drilling fluid
4 through a drill string;
5 (b) a tool disposed on the drill string and conveyed in the
6 borehole, wherein the drilling fluid flows through the drill
7 string and through the tool, the drilling fluid exiting the drill
8 string at a distal end and returning as a return fluid to the
9 surface location in an annulus between the drill string a
10 borehole wall, the return fluid including the drilling fluid and
11 formation fragments;
12 (c) a fluid diverting device in the tool for directing the drilling fluid
13 from within the tool toward a portion of the borehole wall for
14 diverting the fragments in the return fluid away from the wall
15 portion;

- 16 (d) a pad member disposed on the tool, the pad member being
17 moveable in relation to the wall portion for sealing said wall
18 portion from the annulus;
19 (e) a first port exposed to the sealed wall portion for sampling
20 formation fluid; and
21 (f) a surface controller for controlling at least a portion of a
22 drilling operation including formation testing.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the tool further comprises a
2 pressure control device for controlling pressure of the diverted first
3 fluid to remove at least some mudcake from the wall portion.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the fluid-diverting device is coupled
2 to the first port and the first fluid is directed toward the wall portion
3 through the first port.

1 21. The system of claim 18, wherein the tool further comprises at least
2 one second port coupled to the fluid diverting device and the first
3 fluid is directed toward the wall portion through the at least one
4 second port.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein tool further comprises a first
2 extendable probe, the pad being disposed on the extendable probe
3 and the at least one second port is disposed spaced apart from the
4 extendable probe.

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1 23. The system of claim 21, wherein the tool further comprises an
2 extendable member spaced apart from the pad member, the at least
3 one second port being disposed on the extendable member.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the extendable member is selected
2 from a group consisting of (i) an extendable probe, (ii) an extendable
3 stabilizer blade, and (iii) a steering rib.

1 25. The system of claim 18, wherein the tool further comprises at least
2 one second port coupled to the fluid diverting device, the first port
3 and at least one second port being disposed on the pad member
4 and the first fluid is directed toward the wall portion through the at
5 least one second port.